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Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Moore and Smith

Also Present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Police Sergeant

**I-A – Proposed Amendment to Section 5-29 –
Extended Hours of Operation Permit for Establishments Licensed to Sell Alcohol**

A discussion was scheduled on issues regarding the regulation of businesses that sold alcoholic beverages. Notice of the public discussion was published on June 26, 2000. Mayor Naugle explained that this was scheduled for Conference discussion, but any proposed ordinance would be considered at two public hearings in the future. He stated that these meetings would take place in the evening after proper advertisement.

The City Manager stated that the City Commission had directed staff to continue working with the Beverage License Oversight Committee (BLOC), and he introduced the Police Chief to make a presentation.

Chief Brasfield said there had been a number of meetings held in this regard with representatives of Planning, the City Attorney's Office, the Police Department and members of BLOC. He noted that a number of alternatives had been suggested, and the most recent suggestion involved the exclusion of those less than 21 years of age from establishments where alcoholic beverages were sold as a primary product. Chief Brasfield said that the types of activities considered violations would have to be documented and presented for review and action.

Chief Brasfield advised that side issues had arisen suggesting that there be a fee attached to provide for some additional police resources, but there had been a great divergence of opinions in this regard. On behalf of the Police Department, he suggested that the time was right for the Commission to consider an ordinance dealing with the issues. Chief Brasfield said that although the process had started over a year ago, the under 21 idea had not arisen until fairly recently. He noted that there had been a lot of communications, and flyers had been distributed outside Fort Lauderdale about this meeting.

Commissioner Smith believed a lot of people thought the Commission's intent had been to ensure against underage drinking, but that had not been the original intention. Chief Brasfield recalled that problems had arisen with the 800 establishments that sold alcohol in Fort Lauderdale, including convenience stores, grocery stores, restaurants and bars. He reported that the industry itself had been responsible as a group, and the long-established, responsible establishments had provided information and input. However, there were some exceptions that had created a disproportionate drain on City resources.

Chief Brasfield said that all the traditional resources, such as Code enforcement, licensing, fire inspections, and concentrated police activity to deal with the problems had been utilized. However, there were a handful of establishments that did not want to cooperate and be good neighbors. He did not believe any attempt was being made to disallow responsible entertainment and relaxation in Fort Lauderdale, but there had been a lot of problems.

Commissioner Smith asked if there were a disproportionate number of underage people frequenting the small number of establishments causing problems. Chief Brasfield stated that at one particular club, some 40% to 50% of the problems had involved people just under the age of 21. He also reported that 124 arrests had been made within 250 yards of 4 establishments that catered primarily to younger people. Chief Brasfield had learned from Broward General that the emergency room had addressed 48 comatose, non-responsive or seizure-type admittances in the last 12 months from Fort Lauderdale. Of those, 8 had involved people less than 21 years of age, and 33 had occurred between midnight and 6:00 A.M. He also advised that 75% of those incidents had originated at bars or clubs. Although it was a small sampling, Chief Brasfield felt it was a good indication that this was not a good atmosphere for people under 21 years of age.

Mr. Norm Kent, representing the Citizens Committee, stated that there had been 5 separate meetings of 2 hours each, and the vast majority of those present were present here today. They consisted primarily of property owners appointed by the City Commissioners to see if a more effective proposal could be devised than the midnight permitting ordinance initially proposed. Mr. Kent stated that the Committee had unanimously endorsed the document distributed to the Commission as labeled Exhibit 2 at its last meeting.

Mr. Kent reported that the Committee had rejected the midnight permit ordinance because they had not viewed it as the "be all, end all and catch all" to resolve the problems. Instead, it was suggested that wherever an alcoholic beverage establishment threatened the health, safety and welfare of the general public, it be addressed by a new ordinance setting standards and thresholds that could bring the establishment within the jurisdiction of a review board.

Mr. Kent stated that a club could be charged and brought before the review board for creating a nuisance in surrounding neighborhoods by using an excessive amount of police and other City resources. If it was a convenience store, disorderly conduct or underage alcohol sales could be addressed. He advised that a club that catered to those less than 21 years of age could be addressed in terms of underage drinking, disturbances, disorderly conduct, etc.

At 2:18 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened in the Commission meeting room at 2:27 P.M.

Mr. Kent explained that the Citizens Committee had involved homeowners and BARPAC representatives, and they had submitted a proposal. He stated that there were 3 items before the Commission, and 1 involved the midnight permit ordinance that the Committee did not support. Another issue was the under-21 idea, and the Committee's proposal involved establishment of a review board composed of 7 citizens appointed by the Commission, but with the Commission itself serving as the board for the first 6 months. He advised that the citizen board would ultimately be composed of 2 representatives from the hospitality industry; 2 from the nightclub industry; 2 from homeowners and civic associations; and, 1 appointed at large.

Mr. Kent stated that the review board would become involved whenever the Police Chief certified in writing that there had been 3 violations within 3 months at any establishment related to underage drinking, disorderly conduct, excessive loitering, impairing public services, obstruction of rights-of-way, or even over-utilization of law enforcement services. That board would have the power to fine establishments that had done wrong, rather than imposing an arbitrary mechanism on all 800 establishments.

Mr. Kent advised that the proposal included assessing user fees of \$100 each to defray the cost of 2 full-time police officers to be assigned to the unit and patrol the areas where there were problems. He stated that the board would also have the power to roll back hours or impose a midnight curfew on selling alcohol. Mr. Kent believed this mechanism would treat all of the issues raised by the City Commission.

Mr. Kent understood the City Attorney felt the midnight permit ordinance would be more viable way to control the problem. He said the committee was not necessarily indicating that this mechanism would be more viable, but it had concluded that this would be a more fair and equitable method of approaching all the problems that had been raised.

Commissioner Smith wondered if the committee's proposal would be viable and enforceable. Mr. Kent understood the City Attorney felt the midnight proposal would be easier to apply, but the committee felt establishment of a review board would present little problem. Although it would create another administrative mechanism within the City, it would involve participation from all the involved industries and groups working toward a common cause.

Mayor Naugle believed the City needed some legislative authority in order to assess a fee, and he did not believe \$100 per establishment would generate sufficient revenue for more than 1 officer.

The City Attorney stated that City fees for licensing and the like were generally covered by the proposition that they reflected the cost of processing an administering the application of the process. Therefore, the City would have difficulties imposing fees for extra police officers to perform certain functions in certain locations. He recalled some talk earlier about a voluntary contribution, and that would be different. The City Attorney noted that the Code Enforcement Board had been established by a special statute adopted by the State Legislature allowing limited powers under certain circumstances. However, it was not a basic right of cities.

The City Attorney said that a driver's license, for example, was a matter of privilege that could be suspended or revoked. He felt that was a good analogy in this situation involving establishments that were typically open until the late hours and were sometimes in close proximity to residential areas. If an establishment wanted to be open late at night, it could be considered a privilege under certain criteria. He explained that everyone would be treated fairly and equally in the issuance of these late night permits but, like a driver's license, the privilege could be revoked by the City if an establishment failed to meet the conditions imposed on the privilege.

The City Attorney thought it would be best to treat the ability to stay open late at night as a privilege rather than a right, which involved an entirely different burden on the City if it wanted to revoke that type of a right. Mayor Naugle noted that some of the suggestions involved the assessment of fines, but it would take legislative authority to assess fines.

Commissioner Katz understood the committee's proposal was for the City Commission to act as the review board for 6 months. Afterwards, she thought the Special Master process could be used when there were violations. Commissioner Katz believed the State had adopted legislation allowing Special Masters to impose fines of \$5,000 to \$15,000 under certain circumstances. Therefore, after the first 6 months, the Commission could decide to take that approach.

Commissioner Smith referred to the remainder of the BLOC proposal involving the rollback of 30, 60 or 90 days. The City Attorney stated that within the context of a license and a privilege issued by the City, and a hearing, he thought an escalating series of operating hour rollbacks was possible as long as the business was being operated by the same owner. He added that the criteria listed were acceptable and made sense.

Mayor Naugle asked Mr. Kent to discuss the committee's position on the under age 21 ordinance. Mr. Kent stated that at the second meeting of the committee, there had been consensus to support the idea. However, at the fourth or fifth meeting, there had been more controversy. He stated that some of the committee members felt the draft ordinance BLOC proposed provided a mechanism for dealing with the under 21 issue. Mr. Kent did not feel there was a need to exclude people under 21 from clubs altogether. In fact, if the BLOC proposal was adopted, neither the midnight ordinance nor the under 21 ordinance would be necessary.

Mr. Leo Gillespie, President of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Lodging & Hospitality Association, said he had served on the committee, and he supported the ordinance suggested by BLOC and the under 21 ordinance. He stated that the Association's goal was to enhance the area for tourism, and he believed this action would further that goal.

Mr. Alan Forge, representing the Beach Council of the Chamber of Commerce and the Central Beach Alliance, said he had also served on the committee and felt the BLOC ordinance was reasonable. However, the licensing committee also supported the under 21 ordinance. Mr. Forge reported that the Beach Council had unanimously voted to endorse the age restriction ordinance, but the after midnight ordinance had not been available at the time. Therefore, no position had been taken in that regard. He stated that the Central Beach Alliance also supported the age restriction ordinance. Mr. Forge submitted a letter from the Broward County Tourist Development Council indicating its support of the age restriction ordinance. It also did not speak of the third ordinance relating to the roll back periods.

Mr. Daniel Kerns, on behalf of the Atlantis Beach Club and the Velvet Lounge, said he had attended the Commission meetings in this regard and the last two committee meetings, but he had not been aware he could attend the committee meetings until recently. He had thought the intent was to create an ordinance that would allow the City to respond quickly to establishments causing disharmony. Mr. Kerns had no objection to that, but he did object to an ordinance that would prohibit people aged 18 to 21 from enjoying his venues.

Mr. Kerns stated that not only would the establishments lose their 18+ patrons, but they could also lose their friends who were 21 and older. He advised that the Atlantis Beach Club worked with various individuals and groups to ensure it was a good neighbor, and he felt he should have a fair chance to run his business conscientiously without disturbance.

Mr. Skip Murray, representing the Chili Pepper Nightclub, said he was "shaking his head" and did not know where the 18+ ordinance had come from, but he did not think the City could lock people under aged 21 in closets. He stated that the Chili Pepper did not allow underage drinking, and security was provided to ensure a controlled environment. Mr. Murray believed the alternative was to have kids hanging out on the beach, and he did not think that would work for Fort Lauderdale. He pointed out the people in this age group were allowed to vote; could go to war; and, could marry, and there were only a few clubs that had started this situation in the first place.

Mr. Murray felt the Chili Pepper had been a good neighbor and a guiding force in the redevelopment of the area. He agreed the problems should be addressed, but he did not think it was necessary to “throw the baby out with the bathwater.”

Ms. Carol Landau, Regional Manager of Florida Beverage Law Consultants, said she worked with a lot of clubs and restaurants in the Fort Lauderdale area. She felt the proposal appeared discriminatory with respect to 4 COP liquor licenses as opposed to SRX licenses or those issued to convenience stores. Ms. Landau said she had visited various establishments recently, and she had picked up “drug bags” from areas surrounding convenience stores.

Ms. Landau did not understand why the City would want to keep people under 21 out of nightclubs in light of the fact that they could obtain easy access to alcohol at convenience stores or restaurants. She thought one problem involved tourists who came from other countries with lower drinking ages. In fact, many countries allowed even young children to consume alcohol if they were with their parents. Therefore, one could observe parents passing drinks to children in restaurants. Ms. Landau found it disturbing that the proposal addressed only one small aspect of the overall issue.

Mr. John Amodeo said he owned four beach area restaurants, and he supported the age restriction ordinance. He believed the idea was to establish a balance so people of all ages could enjoy the beach area, but the scales were being tilted in the wrong direction. Mr. Amodeo was not very sure about the roll-back suggestion because he thought a good attorney could find loopholes.

Mr. Amodeo advised that he could not be present for the meeting this evening, and he wished to briefly mention the issue of dogs on the beach. He believed the primary issue was the intimidation associated with some of the vicious dogs. Mr. Amodeo pointed out that most of the pedestrian traffic was on the west side of A-1-A, and dogs could prevent people from patronizing some of the establishments along the roadway.

Mr. Cory Hansle said he lived in Sunrise, but he played in a band that appeared in clubs that allowed patrons less than 21 years of age. He stated that one popular place was Club Q because it allowed local bands to play. Mr. Hansle advised that it contained a bar, but admission was charged. He also believed that kids were going to drink and do drugs, and if they could not do it in a club, they would find somewhere else to do it. Mr. Hansle pointed out that if he had nowhere to perform, he would not be able to grow in his field of endeavor.

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Hansle if he played in any clubs in Sunrise. Mr. Hansle replied he did not, and Club Q was located in Davie. Commissioner Smith wondered why his home City did not have any venues for the kids who lived in that town. Mr. Hansle stated that there were not many clubs in Sunrise, and most clubs contained bars, but most of the kids were there to hear the bands.

Mr. Mark Learner, a resident of Sunrise, said he was finding that most of his hobbies were being restricted. He said he was not allowed to skateboard any more except in front of his house and, if this law passed, he would not be able to play music anywhere but at home. Mr. Learner was sure that kids who took drugs and drank would do it somewhere, and the problem would just be moved from clubs to parks or other locations. He pointed out that kids under 18 had no one to speak for them because they could not vote, but they were getting thrown out of everywhere.

Mr. Corey Friedman, a Fort Lauderdale resident, agreed with Mr. Murray, of the Chili Pepper. He had visited that club on many occasions, and the personnel were very careful about underage drinking. Mr. Friedman was concerned that there would soon be no night life available for young people, and it would hurt businesses a great deal.

Mr. Murray stated that the Chili Pepper allowed entrance to those over 18, and there had been some problems when there were major acts, but liquor was strictly limited to a small part of the bar. There was also tight security, and he would not jeopardize his nightclub by allowing young adults to drink. Mr. Murray said that perhaps once a month, a major band might play and kids under 18 were admitted, but that was not typical.

Ms. Brandy Buggio, a Fort Lauderdale resident, did not think it would be fair to pass this ordinance. She said she had been attending shows for a long time, but she did not drink. Ms. Buggio did not think this would help the problem. In fact, she thought the problem would be worse because it would relocate it into public areas like the beach.

Ms. Tabitha Gallerony said she had been going to shows since she was 12 years old, and a lot of the kids who attended were "straight-edged," which meant they were against drinking and drugs. She believed the majority of those who attended these shows were under 21, and they enjoyed these venues for support from friends because they did not have the best families. Ms. Gallerony was concerned that if they were banned from the clubs, they would have nothing left to do but hang out on the streets. She thought this type of support was vital, and she agreed those under 21 should not be drinking, but there was very little for young people to do in the area.

Ms. Gallerony believed that if someone really wanted alcohol, they could get it in numerous places, but those attending the shows did not want it. She said it was more about love, unity and respect for each other, and she hoped the Commission would not adopt this ordinance. Upon questioning by Mayor Naugle, Ms. Gallerony said she lived in Davie. She added that she was from New York where everything was open to young people, and she agreed the Chili Pepper and FuBar handled security very well. In fact, those who were found to be drinking underage were thrown out quickly because the establishments did not want to jeopardize their liquor licenses.

Commissioner Smith understood Ms. Gallerony to be indicating that liquor was not really part of "the scene." She agreed that was the case. Commissioner Smith wondered why these types of venues could be provided without selling alcohol. Ms. Gallerony thought that would be great. Mayor Naugle believed that would work if there were a cover charge, along with the sale of soda, etc.

Mr. Michael Gagliardi, owner of Christopher's, said he'd had a license for 21 years, and he had invested a great deal of money in 5 shopping centers in Fort Lauderdale. He said the under 21 ordinance would not affect him because he had an older clientele, and the reason he had an older clientele was because he did not want to deal with the issues associated with younger patrons. Mr. Gagliardi was afraid to put his liquor license on the line because the State laws were so strict in this regard. He was glad some operators were willing to take the risk, however.

Mr. Gagliardi was concerned that his operating hours could be rolled back based on a frivolous complaint from a competitor in Oakland Park, for example. In fact, he was sure the City would receive numerous frivolous complaints as soon as this type of ordinance was adopted. Although Mr. Gagliardi did not cater to people under 21, he would not want to see anyone's rights revoked.

Commissioner Katz did not believe there would be a problem with frivolous complaints because they would have to be proven through police intervention and documentation over a period of time.

A young lady who introduced herself as *Beth* said she lived in Coral Springs. She, along with 450 people who had signed a petition, was opposed to the age restriction ordinance. Beth stated that a lot of the kids who went to shows were under 21 and had nowhere else to go for fun. Mr. Kent read aloud the petition and asked that it be included in the record. He said he had been present when the drinking age had been raised from 18 to 21, and the argument made then was that the law would not strip the right to enter clubs from these young people. Mr. Kent preferred the committing to targeting young people's rights.

Mr. George Gill said he had been operating hotels on the beach for 40 years, and he hoped the beach would not become "seedy" again. He did not believe an age restriction would affect more than 5% of the bars in Fort Lauderdale. Unfortunately, the clubs that would be affected would be the wrong ones.

Mr. Rick Thornhill, representing Shooters, Dan Marino's, Lulu's on the Beach and several other clubs, supported the ordinance drafted by the committee. He pointed out that out of 800 establishments selling alcohol, there were only a few causing problems, and he believed the committee's ordinance would address those problems.

Commissioner Moore pointed out that this Commission had not raised the issue of age restriction. Rather, the Commission's concerns related to problems around clubs and convenience stores. He was very concerned about the convenience stores because he felt there was greater impact on neighborhoods from this quarter than from nightclubs. Commissioner Moore was glad that people from neighboring cities were coming to Fort Lauderdale to spend their money, and he did not know how age had become the issue.

Commissioner Moore believed the third proposal offered some resolution to the convenience store problem, but the other recommendations did not. He felt the City needed some sort of "hammer" when it came to businesses that were impacting residences, regardless of the type of business. Commissioner Moore thought the best solution was to deal with businesses impacting neighborhoods by insisting they take necessary measures such as providing security personnel and enforcing existing laws.

Commissioner Moore said he had been asking the Parks & Recreation Department to provide activities for teenagers over the past 6 years. He noted that many of the young people who had spoken this evening had indicated they had nowhere else to go but to clubs for entertainment. Commissioner Moore believed the City had facilities that could be used to provide activities for younger people without alcohol. He suggested joint efforts with other communities to provide programming for teenagers with admission fees and sales to cover costs.

Commissioner Moore was particularly concerned about convenience stores, particularly those that appeared to be “drug havens.” He stated that the little “drug bags” could be found all around convenience stores, and they were operating 24 hours per day next to residential properties. Commissioner Moore was sorry that trying to deal with that problem had led to discussion about age restrictions, but he was pleased that young people were participating in the process through e-mail and by appearing here this evening.

Commissioner Hutchinson agreed with Commissioner Moore. She stated that this issue had arisen because of a desire to address certain problems caused by a relatively small number of establishments. She was unclear how the age restriction issue had arisen, and she agreed that if people wanted to drink, they could do so without going to clubs at all. Commissioner Hutchinson remembered being under age, and she got “heart burn” about the whole issue because she agreed kids would end up on the beach and the streets if they were banned from clubs.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she had visited Chili Pepper’s, and her nephew had worked there. She pointed out that the club put its license on the line every time it opened the doors because they allowed patrons under 21, and she did not want kids hanging out on the streets because they had nowhere else to go to see their bands perform.

Commissioner Katz believed the age restriction issue had actually been brought up by BARPAC, and she thought that was a separate issue. She thought that might be something that should be discussed at some point, but she preferred to deal with the original issue at this time. Commissioner Katz liked the idea of fines and the idea of the 30/60/90-day rollback possibility. She suggested that the Commission serve as the review board for the first 6 months, and she thought it was a good idea to consider serving alcohol after midnight to be a privilege rather than a right. Commissioner Katz thought the City should have the ability to impose these types of sanctions when there were situations affecting neighborhoods.

Commissioner Katz thought that after an initial period, consideration should be given to the Special Master process so large fines could be imposed on establishments causing problems. Mayor Naugle understood the idea would also relate to convenience stores. Commissioner Katz agreed that was absolutely necessary. Mayor Naugle believed the City Attorney could draft an ordinance for first reading as soon as possible as outlined by Commissioner Katz.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Katz’s suggestion. To clarify, he understood the intent was to go forward with a “hybrid” ordinance, and he agreed complaints would have to be carefully monitored to avoid frivolous complaints. He believed that was the only way the ordinance could work, and the fee would be reasonable and tied only to administering of the program. Therefore, some fee of less than \$100 would have to be established, and he agreed it was important for the Commission to serve as the review board initially in order to “tweak” the ordinance and identify problem areas.

Mayor Naugle noted that if there was some problem with handling this through the Special Master process, the City could explore legislation to allow the City to administer fines. Commissioner Smith agreed that should be included on the Commission's legislative agenda and noted that the Lobbyist was present. He also agreed with Commissioner Moore that convenience stores were wreaking more havoc than the handful of clubs causing problems, but he thought the age restriction issue should be addressed as well. Commissioner Smith felt there should be a separation between the entertainment needs of adults and those who were underage because they did not mix well.

Mayor Naugle noted that the marketplace could probably establish venues for younger people that were separate from adult clubs. Commissioner Smith pointed out that clubs could lock up the liquor and provide non-liquor evenings from time to time. Mayor Naugle thought it would also allow some other communities the opportunity to serve that population as well. Commissioner Smith noted that one speaker had indicated she lived in Sunrise and there were no clubs, but there was an entertainment known as "Booty Night." Unfortunately, he understood there were those who wanted to outlaw that activity as well, which was unfair.

Mayor Naugle had no problem with having public hearings on both proposals, with two separate ordinances. He thought an age restriction ordinance might be necessary in light of actions taken in other communities, particularly Miami Beach. Mayor Naugle believed there was consensus to move forward with both ordinances.

Commissioner Moore did not agree there was consensus on the age restriction ordinance, and he preferred a vote on that issue. In any case, he said he would prefer to test the ordinance that would deal with clubs and convenience stores to see what effect it would have on the community. He pointed out that if there were problems resulting from mixing age groups, those establishments would already have been cited under existing ordinances or would be addressed with the first ordinance. Commissioner Moore did not think Fort Lauderdale should be forced into taking a position on age restriction when there was no need to do so.

Commissioner Moore asked how old someone had to be to serve alcohol in a restaurant or club, and the Police Chief replied that servers had to be at least 18 years old. Commissioner Moore pointed out that an age restriction would put servers between 18 and 21 years of age out of work. He did not want to punish anyone for being young. Mayor Naugle thought there could be exemptions for servers, and he felt there should be exemptions for those with military identification. Commissioner Smith added that young people who were out with their parents should be exempt as well.

Commissioner Moore felt the government was at fault for failing to provide appropriate entertainment opportunities for young people. He pointed out that the War Memorial Auditorium was operating at a deficit, yet it had been used as a venue when he had been a young man. In fact, there were numerous such public venues throughout Broward County that could be better utilized to address this need.

Commissioner Katz said she was willing to defer consideration of an age restriction ordinance, after listening to Commissioner Moore, until the effects of the first ordinance could be gauged. There was consensus to move forward with the first ordinance at this time.

Action: Ordinance to be drafted as discussed.

At 3:38 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened at 3:45 P.M. in the Commission Conference room.

I-B – 2000 State Legislative Session

A discussion was scheduled with regard to the results of the 2000 State Legislative Session. On June 20, 2000, the City Commission deferred this item to July 6, 2000. The City Manager introduced the City's Lobbyist, *Ms. Linda Cox*.

Ms. Cox stated that a written report had been submitted, but she wanted Commission direction on certain issues. She reported that the Public Nuisance Bill had passed, and dealing in stolen property had been added to the Statute. In addition, the maximum fine was increased from \$7,500 to \$15,000. Ms. Cox stated that the Pawnbroker Bill had been stalled on the "special order calendar," but she had learned that the FDOE had money in the budget for a Statewide database. She also reported that Holiday Park had been awarded a \$150,000 grant

Ms. Cox said that many of the bills that had passed reflected the new philosophy in Tallahassee for creation of a process to fund various projects. One of the issues had been funding Spring Training, and applications had to be submitted by October 1, 2000. She stated that local governments would have to come up with 50%, and she would be attending meetings to determine exactly what would qualify as a 50% contribution. For example, ownership of the property might be considered along with operation of the facility. Ms. Cox stated that a 15-year franchise agreement was required, and she needed to determine if extensions of existing terms to meet that requirement would be acceptable or if a new 15-year agreement would be necessary. She did not know if the Commission was interested in pursuing this matter but, if so, it was necessary to begin preparing to take advantage of this potential funding source.

Ms. Cox stated that Community Health Projects legislation had been adopted to help narrow the gap between health outcomes for ethnic and minority groups in terms of certain diseases. She said grants would be available for health facilities, and she thought the Health Center in Fort Lauderdale would be a prime candidate for this funding. Ms. Cox advised that another bill had been passed to create a grant program to provide computer access in low income areas. She explained that existing facilities, such as churches and community centers, would be able to apply for funding of up to \$25,000 to get children in these neighborhoods educated on computers.

Ms. Cox advised that the Commission would have to decide which park within the City should apply for available FRDAP grants. She believed applications would be accepted in October, and she believed Fort Lauderdale would qualify to submit two applications. Mr. Bud Bentley, Assistant City Manager, stated that due to the timing of the FRDAP grant cycle, prioritizations from this year would be submitted. It was his understanding that Carter Park and Palm Aire Village were the current priorities.

Commissioner Moore asked how Holiday Park had received \$100,000. Ms. Cox replied that had been a FRDAP grant, and Mr. Bentley advised that park had been the priority the year before last. Ms. Cox advised that each community was only allowed three active grants.

Mr. Vince Gizzi, Parks Bond Program, advised that communities could only have two active grants, and Holiday Park was still open. Therefore, an application for Carter Park could be submitted. He also expected the Holiday Park grant to be closed in time to submit an application for Palm Aire Village.

Commissioner Moore thought the Commission had established other priorities. Mr. Bentley stated that the Holiday Park application had already been in process when the Commission had established new policies. Carter and Palm Aire Village Parks applications were being prepared for FRDAP grants. Mr. Gizzi added that the City had also received \$100,000 for Snyder and Earl Lifshey Parks. Mr. Bentley noted that a grant application had not been submitted since Carter Park had been designated as the Commission's first priority.

Commissioner Moore wondered if there were any grants available for an elderly facility at Riverland Park. Mayor Naugle noted that the Bond Issue had not included funds for a community center at Riverland Park. Commissioner Moore wanted to find a way to deal with funding for this facility. The City Manager stated that this project could be put in line behind the projects the Commission had already prioritized. If the process followed the current course, funding would probably be two years into the future after Carter Park and Palm Aire Village. Mr. Bentley recalled some legislation two years ago to fund senior centers. He said he would work with Ms. Cox to obtain more information in that regard.

Commissioner Smith asked if Riverland Park was funded with the exception of the community center. Mr. Pete Sheridan, Engineering Division, reported that the community center would cost about \$600,000 without a swimming pool.

Ms. Cox stated that the Legislature had established several commissions, and one would be examining growth management, so she would be following that issue. Mayor Naugle asked Ms. Cox to let the Commission know when that group would meet so a City Commissioner could attend.

Ms. Cox reported that an emergency services task force had also been created. Mayor Naugle believed Don DiPetrillo served on the task force. Ms. Cox suggested the Commission adopt a resolution urging the task force to hold one of its meetings in Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Smith believed that could be done at the Regular meeting this evening. Ms. Cox thought there was a possibility of creating a specialty hospital.

Ms. Cox stated that a homeless commission had been formed. Mr. Bentley reported that Assistant Police Chief Bob Pusins had been appointed to this commission. Ms. Cox said a study was going to be conducted with regard to retaining 10% on public construction projects, and she would be following that issue as well.

Ms. Cox said the railroad corridor was vetoed again, but the Mobility 2000 Bill contained a transportation outreach program and a grant program. She had been working with Bruce Wilson, of the MPO, to see what organizations could apply for that funding. Ms. Cox referred to dangerous dogs. She wondered if the Commission wanted to pursue the idea of a local bill and said she could check with the Delegation's Attorney to see if it was possible. Commissioner Smith thought Representative Seiler might be willing to sponsor a bill.

Commissioner Smith asked Ms. Cox if she could check on the City's ability to impose fines for violations related to nightclubs as discussed earlier today. Ms. Cox advised that she had listened to that discussion and would look into it.

Action: Approved as discussed.

I-C – 1999 Uniform Crime Report

A discussion was scheduled on the 1999 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) by the Police Department, as requested by Commissioner Smith. On June 20, 2000, the City Commission deferred this item to July 6, 2000. The City Manager noted that a written report had been distributed.

Commissioner Smith did not want this good news to just pass by, and this was great news. He pointed out that Fort Lauderdale had been tremendously successful at reducing the crime rate over the past five years. He thought the City should take this opportunity to double efforts and become known throughout the country as the safest City in America.

Commissioner Smith suggested that consideration be given to decentralization of the Police Department. He pointed out that everything was on West Broward Boulevard in a very controlled “bunker mentality.” Citizens were not welcome and it was nearly impossible to get into the building. He felt precinct-type policing would be better so officers were very available, scrutiny was greater, and there were greater opportunities for officers to interact with the community.

Commissioner Smith believed there were cities with sizes similar to Fort Lauderdale that were decentralizing their police departments, and he thought the Police Chief and “brass” should be closer to the City Manager. He stated that public safety was the Commission’s highest priority, yet the Police Chief was the one department head nowhere near the City Manager. It made more sense to Commissioner Smith that the administrative functions of the Police Department be handled along with the other administrative functions of the City.

Police Chief Brasfield certainly agreed that having police as near as possible to the area being served was ideal, but additional resources would have to be provided to staff facilities, unless they were left empty, while personnel were out in the community. He believed Commissioner Smith’s goals could be accomplished as the community policing philosophy was built within the rank and file. Chief Brasfield noted that infrastructure investment was great, and when facilities were constructed, the public expected them to be manned. He advised that he had examined the idea of a precinct type of operation, and it was successful, but it increased costs.

Chief Brasfield reported that most cities with precincts either had a much larger land mass than Fort Lauderdale or did not nearly reduce crime as much. From a philosophical standpoint, he believed Fort Lauderdale was on the same “wave length,” and he hoped nothing in the back-up material would lead anyone to believe the Police Department was satisfied. He felt there was still a long way to go, but he was very pleased with Fort Lauderdale’s results as compared to the rest of the nation and the region.

Mayor Naugle noted that there was a large increase in the tax base this year, and there were demands from the different labor unions for more compensation, but if there was any money left over, he wanted to see some ideas in the area of public safety. He believed one reason the crime rate was down so much was because it had been so high. At this time, Fort Lauderdale had gone from being one of the top 10 cities in terms of crime to being 35th, but the City was still in the top 10%. Mayor Naugle was pleased the City was moving in the right direction, but it was not yet time to declare victory.

Mayor Naugle understood it would be difficult to provide staff in a precinct type of operation, but he felt there should be more of the "officer on the beat" type of operation, perhaps with a kiosk. Commissioner Katz asked if there was a substation in the beach area. Chief Brasfield replied that there had been a substation in Beach Place, but not any longer. Mayor Naugle said he had received complaints that the substation was just a place for officers to pass time rather than being out on the beach.

Commissioner Smith wanted to ensure staff did not rest. He wanted to see more creative approaches to controlling crime. Chief Brasfield assured him that the Police Department would not rest, and he was constantly being contacted by other law enforcement agencies to learn about Fort Lauderdale's methods. He believed the previous Police Chief had forwarded the many "attaboy" letters the Police Department received, but that practice had been discontinued. Chief Brasfield noted that the Commission had authorized use of federal monies for community policing.

Mayor Naugle felt engaging citizens through the Citizens on Patrol Program was a good idea. Chief Brasfield agreed and thought that was an area that was currently under utilized. He was hopeful greater use of volunteers could be achieved. He did not want anyone to think the Police Department felt they had "arrived," and efforts would continue.

Commissioner Moore understood Fort Lauderdale was not "Utopia," but he felt the Police Department should be applauded for its successes. Due to the fact that Commissioner Smith had raised the issue of precinct operations, he thought a Conference discussion was in order. He did not not have much information, and a study of the subject might shed some light. Commissioner Moore recalled that the substation on Sistrunk Boulevard had proven more of a problem than a help because people had run there and found no one there.

Commissioner Moore said that one thing that had helped in the past were officers on three-wheeled motorcycles that worked in various areas of the City and provided a great deal of visibility. They were also effective chasing bicycles and traveling on fields, etc.. He believed they had curtailed a lot of what the public perceived as problems. Commissioner Moore thought greater visibility was more effective than a precinct-type of operation.

Commissioner Smith felt the Police Department was burdened in this litigious society, and Sergeants often had to be in the station because there was so much paperwork to do. Commissioner Moore said he would agree if it weren't for the new technology in which the City had recently invested for laptop computers. Nevertheless, he thought the subject should be discussed at a Conference meeting so the Police Department could outline the pros and cons of the precinct concept.

Commissioner Smith suggested the Commission request staff to come up with a very creative "Plan for the Future" over the next six months. The Police Chief said he would be delighted to do so, but he did want to stick with things that were working well. He also wanted to be quick to abandon those efforts that were not as effective. The Police Chief advised that there were more good ideas than there was personnel or resources. He felt the Police Department had to continue to insist on accountability and responsibility, and be willing to abandon traditional methods that did not work well.

The City Manager wished to thank the Police Chief for all his efforts, but he also wished to note that the successes the City had enjoyed were due entirely to the Police Department's efforts. He pointed out that other programs had helped as well in terms of preventing crime. For example, various Parks & Recreation Department and Code Enforcement programs also contributed to the reduction in crime. Commissioner Smith noted that he had not brought this subject up in order to create another bureaucratic burden or start another study, but he wanted efforts to remain focused because there was still a long way to go.

The City Manager wished to take this opportunity to publicly commend the police officers who had broken up the boat theft ring. In addition, a couple of officers had recently saved some lives in the water. He noted that these were some of the successes the City had recently enjoyed, although many were not as visible.

Commissioner Smith was outraged by a new law from Broward County that prohibited the City from taking criminal youth to the Juvenile Detention Facility. Therefore, if a juvenile robbed a house and was caught at the corner with a stolen television, all the police could do was take him home. Chief Brasfield had not yet had an opportunity to meet with the Juvenile Justice personnel. However, the Broward Police Chiefs' Association would be meeting soon because law enforcement agencies were severely limited in how they could deal with juvenile offenders. However, there was a home monitoring system in place for various lengths of time depending on the violation, and juvenile issues were scheduled for discussion by the Association.

Commissioner Smith reported that the County Commission had an item on its July 11, 2000 meeting agenda relating to funding for the Broward Sheriff's Office for these types of facilities out in the western suburbs. He was concerned that resources were being redirected, and Fort Lauderdale could not take its criminal youth to those facilities.

Commissioner Moore was concerned that people would target underage people to distribute drugs because first and second offenses resulted in nothing more than a "slap on the wrist." He thought the problem would double and triple very quickly when drug dealers realized that offenders would just receive 21 days at home under the home monitoring system. The Police Chief stated that the charges would not change, and there was a screening and classification process to determine what would be appropriate. He did not have all of the details, however, a meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible in this regard. Commissioner Moore requested an update on July 18, 2000, and the City Manager believed a written report could be provided even sooner.

The City Manager noted that before the Juvenile Intervention Facility had been created, there had only been a juvenile detention facility. He explained that this was cyclical process, and the juvenile detention facility had been cited for overcrowding because it was playing "host" to all of Broward County. It was also overcrowded now, and it might not be too long before it was cited again. He stated that this problem was bigger than the Police Department and even the whole City, but staff would examine the issue.

Mayor Naugle wondered if the Police Chiefs' Association would be able to examine this issue on an emergency basis. Chief Brasfield said he would make some phone calls, and he expected a meeting could be held in July or August. If necessary, a conference call could be utilized.

Commissioner Smith stated that it had been suggested to him that a resolution be adopted tonight indicating that this was a real concern to Fort Lauderdale. Mayor Naugle asked that a resolution be prepared for presentation tonight.

Action: Approved as discussed. Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

II-A – Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Annual Report

A report was presented on the fund raising progress and implementation of the five-year (1998-2003) performance plan of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society in accordance with the lease of City-owned properties along Southwest 2nd Avenue.

Commissioner Katz inquired about the Museum of Science & Discovery as to use of the old post office site in conjunction with the Historical Society. Mayor Naugle did not believe that had involved the Historical Society. The City Manager said he could provide a report about the post office site on July 18, 2000.

Mayor Naugle congratulated the progress the Historical Society had been made in terms of fund raising. Commissioner Katz asked if the Board of Directors of the Historical Society were required to contribute. *Ms. Pat Demos*, President of the Board of Trustees, advised that existing and former Board Members provided pledges in the amount of \$450,000.

Commissioner Katz said her concern was that there had been more and more requests for deadline extensions over the years with regard to fund raising. She recognized that there was a new Executive Director who deserved some time to perform, but she wondered what amount of time would be necessary. Mayor Naugle suggested the Commission request a progress report in six months.

Commissioner Moore wondered who the new Director was and what goals she had for dealing with past shortfalls. *Ms. Demos* introduced the new Director, *Ms. Joan Mikus*. She acknowledged that the Historical Society was short of its fund-raising goals, but there had been successes including the opening of the New River Inn. She reported that all of the buildings were now open and available to the public, and the next priority was the historic walk streetscape.

Commissioner Hutchinson reported that she had taken the “grand tour,” and she had been pleased with the New River Inn and the work that had been accomplished. She pointed out that infrastructure improvements were not as visible as the “glitzy” type of improvements. Commissioner Hutchinson pointed out that Dan Hobby had been a great historian, and she felt the new Director needed some time to perform. *Ms. Mikus* reported that she had experience in the area of fund raising, and there was a \$35,000 grant available for the effort.

Commissioner Moore recalled some private sector interest in the past, but the City had elected to go with the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society because it was a non-profit organization with an interest in preserving these sites. However, sometimes things did not work out. He agreed the new Director should be given an opportunity to move forward, but he did not want to put \$100,000 on the table until other successes had been demonstrated. Commissioner Moore believed private sector operators might have been able to do more with a “greed motive,” and he felt some benchmark should be set before the \$100,000 was made available. He suggested a Commission Conference discussion be scheduled about benchmarks, as opposed to a report item.

Mayor Naugle believed benchmarks were listed on page 2 of Memorandum No. 00-936 from the City Manager with respect to this item. Commissioner Moore had noted there was a benchmark of raising \$2.5 million in 1999-2000, but only \$1.9 million had been raised. The amounts mentioned for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were reductions in the target amounts. Mayor Naugle understood these were the City Manager's recommendations, and he had viewed them as benchmarks. He asked Commissioner Moore if he wished to discuss the City Manager's recommendations further. Commissioner Moore said he wanted to discuss the fact that past benchmarks had not been achieved, and to consider future parameters. He was concerned that he was not seeing any movement.

Commissioner Smith pointed out that this was not just some social service funded by the City. This was the City's history, and Fort Lauderdale had not done a good job of preserving its history. This organization involved volunteers who wanted to help the community keep its attachment to its roots. Commissioner Smith had no objection to an agenda item geared toward helping the Historical Society further these goals. He was, however, opposed to a discussion geared toward "squeezing" the organization and eliminating its funding.

Commissioner Moore acknowledged Commissioner Smith's point, but there had been private sector interest in the properties, and he felt the options had to be increased even if that meant using an organization who preserved historic properties for profit. He thought it might make practical business sense to go in that direction, although he was not prepared to head that way now until the new Director had been given a fair opportunity to address the situation. Ms. Demos pointed out that the Historical Society had been the only organization that had submitted a proposal involving all of the buildings.

Mayor Naugle asked if the Historical Society could live up to the benchmarks proposed by the City Manager in his memorandum. Ms. Demos replied that the Historical Society would certainly put forth its best effort. Mayor Naugle suggested the Commission approve this item today and request a progress report in six months. He asked that the recommended amendment to the agreement with the Historical Society for formal action on July 18, 2000.

Action: Approved as discussed. Agreement amendment to be placed on July 18, 2000 agenda.

I-D – Proposed Purchase of Property – 40-Acre Recycling Facility Parcel North of Wingate Landfill Site

A discussion was scheduled on the proposed purchase of the 40-acre recycling facility parcel located north of the Wingate Landfill site. Mayor Naugle asked if the property could be purchased subject to the scrap metal being removed. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that the scrap metal would be removed from the site before closing, and he noted that the owner was present.

Commissioner Moore felt the City should offer \$100,000 less for the property than the amount currently on the table. He thought the owner would accept that offer. Mayor Naugle agreed. Commissioner Katz asked where the funds were coming from, and Commissioner Smith did not think it made sense to buy this property that no one wanted. Commissioner Moore believed there were a number of people interested in the property, but no direction had been given as to what the City really wanted. He felt the property was very attractive since it was located in the heart of an urban area.

Mayor Naugle inquired about the zoning of the property and wondered if the Land Use Plan designated the property as residential. He felt the Commission needed more information. Commissioner Moore was prepared to move forward if the owner accepted \$1.1 million today. The property owner advised there were other parties interested in the property.

Mr. Kisela explained the IT Group was completing the design that had been started during remediation of the site. If the City was going to buy the property, the IT Group needed to know so they could incorporate a storm water retention program. If not, the design could be completed without change. Mayor Naugle inquired as to the source of funds. Mr. Kisela replied the monies would either come from reserves or bond proceeds.

Mayor Naugle wanted assurances that the scrap metal would be removed before closing. Mr. Kisela said his only intent today had been to obtain conceptual approval of the purchase. The City Manager suggested that staff be allowed to proceed with due diligence and present a recommendation for acquisition in September. There were no objections. Mayor Naugle cautioned that he was looking for a good deal.

The property owner felt a fair price would be \$1.6 million, and the City would be getting a bargain at \$1.2 million based on the appraisals. Mr. Kisela advised there had been two appraisals, and he was more concerned about addressing the environmental issues than the purchase price. He said his comfort level had increased substantially since May, and a sales contract could be considered in September. Mayor Naugle believed that if the City could purchase this property at the right price and under the right terms, it would enhance the value of Wingate.

Action: Approved as discussed.

At 4:58 P.M., the meeting was recessed for a closed door session regarding litigation strategy in connection with Nora Batian v City of Fort Lauderdale (Case No. 99-012303[14]) and Arnold P. Abbott for Love Thy Neighbor, Inc. v City of Fort Lauderdale (Case No. 99-003583[05]). The meeting was reconvened at 5:25 P.M.

I-E – Broward Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project

A discussion was scheduled on the revised Broward Boulevard Streetscape Improvement project. On June 20, 2000, the City Commission deferred this item to July 6, 2000. The City Manager noted that a written report had been provided and Mr. Peter Partington was available.

Mayor Naugle believed half the reason for the project itself had been to provide sidewalks and lighting improvements. He wondered if there was any possibility of funding the shortfall by assessment. Mayor Naugle suggested that staff be given an opportunity to further examine the figures because most of the money was coming from the County and the City, and there were a lot of private properties that would benefit. Commissioner Moore had no objection to considering the figures.

Mr. Partington stated that the shortfall was approximately \$5 million, and the bid was about six months old already. He suggested the County be “set loose” to obtain a bid while staff investigated methods of funding the shortfall and followed up on the idea of an assessment. He noted that many of the items proposed for elimination could be added during the course of the rest of the project or even after it was completed. Mr. Partington explained that the County was “sitting on a bid” and would construct a reduced project without City money excluding the brick pavers and pedestrian lighting.

Commissioner Moore felt this matter should be taken to the public, and he felt the City should try to get the County to understand the community’s standards. Commissioner Smith understood Mr. Partington’s concern was the shortfall. Mr. Partington explained that direction was necessary as to how the County should proceed with the project and to clearly define the scope. He stated that unless \$5 million was made available through some source, the scope of the project had to be reduced or the project itself postponed significantly.

Mayor Naugle asked who had designed the project. *Ms. Nancy Harrington*, Broward County, advised that the landscaping and enhancements had been designed by PAB. Mayor Naugle noted that it had not just been the landscaping and enhancements that were over budget. Ms. Harrington believed the rest of the project had been designed by Cundy Specker. Mayor Naugle did not feel the consultants had done the job properly because they had not designed a project that fit the budget.

Commissioner Moore believed the consultant had been asked to work with the community, and the consultant had done so on numerous occasions to obtain public input. He did not feel it was the consultant’s fault that the community had desires greater than the budget. Commissioner Moore was concerned that if the project moved forward as recommended, businesses would be happy to get anything and would not be willing to consider assessment for additional improvements.

Ms. Harrington explained the immediate problem was responding to the low bidder. It had been recommended that the County project proceed with elimination of the pavers and pedestrian lighting. Later, if more funding was forthcoming, those improvements could be added before completion of the overall project. Mr. Partington noted that without City dollars, the project could go forward in terms of landscaping, bus shelters, neighborhood entryways, regular lighting, and trash receptacles. Commissioner Moore asked what the \$1.3 million would provide, and Mr. Partington stated that would provide for “off the shelf” pedestrian lighting.

Mayor Naugle felt the project should go forward while staff investigated the possibility of special assessment funding. Commissioner Katz suggested that the public be educated on how the project had reached this point. Commissioner Moore acknowledged that the scope of the project had grown, and he was pleased that the County had listened. Commissioner Smith wondered how long the bid would be good. Ms. Harrington said it had been good for 90 days, and bids had been opened on January 4, 2000. The contractor had since extended the offer for 30 days at a time, and it was now down to 14 days.

The City Manager felt it would be worthwhile to explore the idea of a special assessment, and he believed there would be a public explanation forthcoming from the County as to how the project and the community’s expectations had grown. Mayor Naugle noted that the City had a lot of front footage in the area, so there could be an expense to the City in terms of a special assessment.

Action: Approved. Staff to study possibility of special assessment for additional funds.

**I-F – Preliminary Program Development and Environmental Study (PPD&E) –
Project 15390 – Andrews Avenue, Third Avenue, and
Sistrunk Boulevard Streetscape**

A discussion was scheduled about the status of the PPD&E for Andrews Avenue, Third Avenue, and Sistrunk Boulevard streetscape project. On June 20, 2000, the City Commission deferred this item to July 6, 2000. Mayor Naugle noted that this was another unfounded project, and it was the consensus of the Commission to give the “go ahead.”

Mr. Pete Sheridan, Engineering Division, noted that the Commission had already seen the presentation sitting as the CRA Board. He wanted to ensure the project was moving in the proper direction. Mr. Sheridan understood the Commission wanted to explore reversible lanes, but staff was removing the section of Sistrunk Boulevard from Andrews Avenue to Federal Highway from the PPD&E study and moving forward separately with the right-of-way maps. He reported that this project was currently on the MPO’s unfounded list in the amount of \$15 million. Mr. Sheridan added that staff was also exploring other funding alternatives.

Action: Approved.

**I-G – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Proposed Improvements to
Sunrise Boulevard – I-95 to Flagler Drive (Searstown)**

A discussion was scheduled on proposed improvements by the FDOT to Sunrise Boulevard, from I-95 to Flagler Drive (Searstown), including changes to the medians, resurfacing of roads, streetlights, and signage. Commissioner Smith said he had served on the community committee, and he asked that copies of the enhancement portion done by EDSA be provided to the Commission. Mayor Naugle asked staff to keep the Commission apprised of any concerns.

Action: Approved as discussed.

I-H – Fire-Rescue/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assessment Program

A discussion was scheduled on the Fire-Rescue Special Assessment Program. Mayor Naugle noted that a recommendation had been provided to do a little more work with the consultant.

Action: Approved.

II-B – City Commission Staff Resources

A report was distributed on the results of the City Commission staff resources survey conducted of other cities in Florida with populations similar to Fort Lauderdale’s. On June 20, 2000, the City Commission deferred this item to July 6, 2000. It was the consensus of the Commission to add another staff member to be hired by the City Clerk. Commissioner Smith preferred that the City Clerk “short list” the candidates and allow the Commission to interview those candidates because the Commission had to work closely with these staff members.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that the Charter did not allow the Commission to be involved in the hiring process. Commissioner Smith suggested that a question be placed on the November ballot to change the Charter so the Commission could have input as to the hiring of their own assistants. Mayor Naugle believed it would be more appropriate to send the matter to the Charter Revision Board. Commissioner Smith did not object, but he felt the Commission should at least get a “courtesy interview” with the short listed candidates. Commissioner Moore thought that would compromise the process unless the Charter was amended.

The City Attorney said that if it were not advisable to go with a contractor/consultant-type employee, it would be legally possible for the Commission to meet and hear from the applicants without making any recommendation to the City Clerk as to who should or should not be hired. As a practical matter, he was not sure that would be the proper approach.

Commissioner Moore thought the City Clerk should hire her own staff, particularly since there was a probationary period for every new hire. If a Commissioner was not happy with an employee, he thought the City Clerk would take that into consideration. Commissioner Smith was persuaded that the Commission should move ahead with this now, but he did want to send the matter to the Charter Revision Board because he felt Commissioners should have some input into who was hired for their assistants.

Commissioner Katz pointed out that the County Commissioners selected their own aides. Mayor Naugle noted this could be accomplished by hiring assistants as consultants or contractors. An alternative was to amend the Charter to expand the Commission’s role in this respect. He understood there was consensus to ask for the Charter Revision Board’s input and to hire another employee. The City Clerk advised there was one position contained in the current fiscal year, and a budget request would be made for an additional employee in the new fiscal year. She expected to fill the first position in early August.

Commissioner Smith said he had been trying to get a copy of the last Charter Revision Board meeting minutes. The City Attorney advised a draft had been prepared that could be forwarded.

Action: Input to be requested from Charter Revision Board; additional position conceptually approved.

III-B – Advisory Board Vacancies

1. Aviation Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

2. Board of Commissioners of the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority

Mayor Naugle wished to reappoint Mr. George Trodella to the Board of Commissioners of the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

3. Budget Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

4. Civil Service Board

Mayor Naugle wished to appoint Mr. Kaye Pearson to the Civil Service Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

5. Community Appearance Board

Action: Deferred.

6. Education Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

7. Historic Preservation Board

Action: Deferred.

8. Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board

It was the consensus of the Commission to reappoint Police Chief Michael Brasfield, Chief Ed Hardy, Ms. Carol L. Ortman, Ms. Monic Hofheinz, and Ms. Sandi Johnson to this Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

9. Marine Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

10. Parks, Recreation & Beaches Advisory Board

Commissioner Moore wanted to appoint Mr. Alan MacLeod to this Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

11. Performing Arts Center Authority

Commissioner Hutchinson wished to interview Mr. Jim Carras for the vacancy on the Performing Arts Center Authority. Commissioner Moore believed there was consensus to reappoint Ms. Barbara Jones. Mayor Naugle noted that term limits would allow for new appointments in the future. The City Clerk believed the Commission had voted to exempt this board from term limits. It was the consensus of the Commission to reappoint Ms. Jones.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

12. Unsafe Structures & Housing Appeals Board

Action: Deferred.

At 5:55 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened at 8:58 P.M.

IV – City Commission Reports

1. Speeding on Middle River

Commissioner Katz was concerned about speeding on Middle River, and she wondered if citizens on boats could be used to control it. She had been receiving a lot of complaints in this regard. The Police Chief thought using citizen volunteers was an excellent idea, and staff had been considering it. He also noted that 427 citations had been issued between January 1 and July 2, 2000 on the waterways, with 168 issued on the River. Thus, 39% of the enforcement activity had occurred on the Middle River, and special duty officers had been stationed from midnight until 8:00 A.M. on one weekend in June, but only two boats had been observed on the water during that time. He explained that was contrary to some of the information he had received.

The Police Chief stated there were some other issues that might need reconsideration. He recalled that there had been a court case involving a boat rental operation on the Middle River, and the operator had apparently taken it to mean racing was acceptable. He said he would like to convene a working group to explore various ideas under Commissioner Katz's auspices. Commissioner Katz noted that there was also speeding in the area around 25th Street, too, so a working group would be welcome.

Action: As discussed.

2. County Purchase of Property

Commissioner Katz was very concerned about a recent newspaper article indicating that Broward County was close to signing a purchase contract on a 170,000-square foot building at University Drive and Broward Boulevard for \$17.5 million. It was her understanding from the article that the County had not yet decided how to use the building. As a taxpayer, Commissioner Katz thought this sounded like another "Swerdlow deal." Further, she was offended and outraged that the County might want to move its headquarters to Plantation. She thought that would be a "death knell" for Fort Lauderdale.

Mayor Naugle did not think a building that size would be large enough for the County operations, and perhaps a satellite building was being considered. The City Manager said that there had been some talk about the County moving its operation elsewhere, but it was his understanding from a reliable source that this purchase would allow for additional space needs so the main operation would not need to be moved from Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Katz hoped the City Manager was right. Mayor Naugle did not believe the building mentioned in the article would come close to being large enough to replace the facilities downtown.

Action: None.

3. Restrooms at the Beach

Commissioner Katz understood beachgoers were not allowed to use the restrooms in Birch State Park. She wondered if the fence could be moved back so people could use those restrooms or if staff could examine the idea of erecting restroom kiosks like those used in Europe. Commissioner Smith thought moving the fence back at Birch State Park would be a good idea.

Mr. Tom Tapp, Director of Parks & Recreation, said he would contact the manager at Birch State Park to see why beachgoers were not allowed to use the restrooms there. He recalled that people had once been allowed to enter the Park on the honor system to use the restroom, and he would see what could be done, if only on a temporary basis.

Action: Staff to investigate.

4. Broward League of Cities

Commissioner Moore asked that Commissioner Smith attend Broward League of Cities meetings with him so there would be a smooth transition when his resignation from the Commission became effective. He pointed out that City involvement in the League of Cities was very worthwhile, and there were standing committees on which he felt Fort Lauderdale should be represented.

Action: As discussed.

5. Citrus Canker

Commissioner Moore suggested consideration of a resolution relating to the citrus canker strike force, and a report had been provided listing replacement species. Mayor Naugle believed Commissioner Hutchinson had asked the subject to be placed on the July 18, 2000 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Moore suggested that Mr. Tom Hasis, of Lighthouse Point, be invited to attend the meeting, as he was a member of the Broward League of Cities Task Force. He advised he had a model resolution, and it contained information about preventing the spread of the disease. Commissioner Hutchinson had provided additional information to the City Clerk.

Action: To be considered on July 18, 2000.

6. Florida League of Cities

Commissioner Moore stated that the Florida League of Cities would be meeting here August 10 to 12, 2000. He recalled that the last time the meeting had been held here in 1993, there had been a police officers protest. Commissioner Moore suggested that the City host a small reception for the delegates at the hotel. Mayor Naugle advised that there would be a "Night on the Riverwalk" on Friday evening in which the City was participating. Commissioner Moore envisioned something more intimate hosted by the Commission at the hotel.

Commissioner Moore reported that the League of Cities was planning a simplified communications service tax seminar scheduled for July 19, 2000 at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando. He had planned to attend but could not, so he hoped one of the other Commissioners could attend.

Action: As discussed.

7. Naming of Street for Marjorie Davis

Commissioner Moore understood streets were not usually named for living individuals, but he felt Ms. Davis was an ordinary person who did extraordinary things, and he hoped the street renaming in her honor could be accomplished at the July 18, 2000 meeting.

Action: Subject to be placed on July 18, 2000 meeting agenda.

8. Post Office Site

Commissioner Hutchinson understood the City Manager would provide a status report about the post office site on July 18, 2000.

Action: Report to be provided on July 18, 2000.

9. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Roundtable

Commissioner Hutchinson encouraged everyone to attend the July 8, 2000 roundtable discussion with the DDA and citizens about a vision for the downtown area. She noted that additional information could be obtained by calling 761-5002.

Action: None.

10. Election for District 3

Commissioner Smith assumed there would be an election in November to fill Commissioner Moore's seat. Mayor Naugle stated that the seat had to be filled within 60 days, so an election could be held on November 28, 2000, and the new Commissioner seated at the first meeting in December. Commissioner Moore thought some direction from the City Attorney was in order. He said he would not be vacating his seat until November 21, 2000.

Commissioner Smith understood an election was scheduled for November 7, 2000, and he wondered if it could be handled then rather than having a separate election at great cost. Mayor Naugle believed there would also be a better turnout at the polls. Commissioner Moore pointed out that the seat would not be vacant until November 21, 2000. He suggested a Conference discussion in this regard on July 18, 2000. It was agreed.

Action: Subject to be placed on July 18, 2000 agenda.

11. Federal Building

Commissioner Smith said there had been recent newspaper articles about identifying a location for a federal building, and he thought it was important that it stay in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Pete Witschen, Assistant City Manager, stated that a meeting was scheduled soon in this regard. Mayor Naugle noted that the administration's policy would dictate the federal building be in an urban area, and he agreed the City should do everything possible to ensure that policy did not change.

Action: Staff to provide report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

NOTE: A MECHANICAL RECORDING HAS BEEN MADE OF THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS, OF WHICH THESE MINUTES ARE A PART, AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.